



7 Fun Holiday Activities

to enjoy with your kids this season



by Calvin Farrell

For a parent, the holidays can be a busy, and sometimes stressful, season. For a child, however, the holidays are pure magic, with all the decorations, the snow, and of course, Santa Claus. Keep the spirit of the season alive this year with these eight fun holiday activities to enjoy with your kids.

1. See a Parade

Near the start of the holiday season, most towns will host a Christmas parade. Check your local listings for nearby parades, then bundle up in warm clothes and enjoy some free entertainment. Kids will love sipping a warm cup of hot chocolate while watching the different floats go by. Best of all, they may catch a glimpse of Santa!

2. Bake Cookies

During a winter storm, staying indoors and baking a batch of cookies is a great way to pass the time. If you have older children, they can do all the baking (with your supervision). Younger children can help by decorating the cookies with icing and sprinkles. As an added bonus, the finished product can be given to loved ones as Christmas gifts.





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children the importance of giving to those less fortunate, so they can experience the joy that comes with a committing a kind and selfless act. Try having them pick out a toy to give to a child in need, or create homemade cards for those who need holiday cheer, such as soldiers overseas or children in the hospital.

7. Make Christmas Crafts

Christmas crafts are a great indoor activity for when the weather outside is too severe. You can choose a specific project to try, or just provide them with craft supplies and let them use their imaginations. Their creations can then be used as gifts for family members, decorations for the house, or even as ornaments on the Christmas tree. ■



3. See the Lights

On clear nights, consider taking a family walk around your neighborhood to see the Christmas lights. If the decorations in your neighborhood are sparse, take a drive around the city. Discovering your city's bright, festive holiday displays will capture the magic of the season perfectly.

4. Go Christmas Shopping Together

It may be tempting to buy all the Christ-

mas gifts yourself, and thereby avoid having to brave the mall with your kids. Involving children in the buying process, however, will teach them to appreciate the "giving" aspect of the season, not just the "receiving." Take a family trip to the mall and allow your kids to choose gifts to give their teachers and friends.

5. Take a Picture with Santa

While you're at the mall, don't forget to get a picture taken with Santa Claus. The long lines will be worth the inconvenience, especially when your child's face lights up at their chance to meet their Christmas hero. Plus, the photos will serve as mementos that both you and your children can cherish for years to come.

6. Give Back

Christmas is a great time to teach your



The spirit of the holiday season comes alive when you spend time together as a family. Experience the magic of the holidays with these eight fun and festive activities that both you and your children are sure to enjoy.



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